

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Of the pending claims, claim 1 is independent. Claim 7 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-6 and 8-15 stand rejected. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1 123 844 A1 to Kuriya et al. (“Kuriya”) in view of US 2003/0045973 to Okamoto (“Okamoto”). Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriya in view of Okamoto and further in view of US 2003/0080877 to Takagi et al. (“Takagi”).

As shown above, claim 1 has been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 is directed to a parking assistance device comprising, *inter alia*, “a controller ... providing the guidance information for guiding a predetermined parking path to the target parking space ..., and displaying on the monitor at least one of a predetermined predicted path and a predetermined predicted parking position on the parking path guided by the guidance information.” In particular, amended claim 1 further recites “the predetermined predicted path and the predetermined predicted parking position being available by the controller in advance of when the driver operates the vehicle in accordance with the guidance system.” (emphasis added)

The Examiner indicates that Kuriya fails to disclose determining a predetermined parking path to the target parking space, displaying on the monitor a parking path and a predetermined predicted parking position on the parking path guidance information.

The Examiner then cites Okamoto as disclosing this aspect of invention, i.e., determining a predetermined parking path to the target parking space and displaying on the monitor a predetermined parking path and a predetermined predicted parking position on the parking path guidance information.

However, in Okamoto, after the desired parking area P is confirmed by a driver in a rear area image FI, the vehicle image positioning switch 13A is operated in step S39 to move a vehicle image VI to the desired parking position P in step S41, so that the desired parking area P is confirmed by the controller. See, e.g., paragraph 57 of Okamoto. Subsequently, the predicted vehicle route image TR1 is prepared in steps S11-S17. See, e.g., paragraph 65-67 of Okamoto. In other words, in Okamoto, it appears that a parking path is prepared and at least one of a predicted path and a predicted parking position is displayed after the desired parking area P is determined or confirmed.

The Examiner also indicates that “Okamoto discusses superposing on the display screen a predicted vehicle route image generated within a predetermined area and an actual vehicle route image (Paragraph 43).” Applicants note, however, that paragraph 43 of Okamoto merely describes the operation of the display 43 regarding when the predicted vehicle route image TR1 is prepared and displayed.

The Examiner further states that “[t]he vehicle image positioning switch moves a vehicle image to the desired position, which would be a predetermined predicted parking position

(Paragraph 57).” However, paragraph 57 of Okamoto merely describes that the desired parking area P is confirmed by the controller. In Okamoto, the predicted vehicle route image TR1 is not prepared in advance of when the driver makes the controller confirm the desired parking area P as required by the present invention of amended claim 1. As a result, the predicted vehicle route image in Okamoto does not correspond to the predetermined predicted path or the predetermined predicted parking position in the amended claim 1 of the present invention. Moreover, in Okamoto, the predicted vehicle route image TR1 is generated based on outputs of the wheel speed sensor 5 and the steering angle sensor 6 as disclosed in, e.g. paragraphs 44 and 45. In contrast, the predetermined predicted path and the predetermined predicted parking position are available by the controller in advance of obtaining the outputs from such sensors.

Takagi is cited as disclosing a side image capturing means but it does not disclose the inventive aspect of amended claim 1 as discussed above, e.g., the predetermined predicted path and the predetermined predicted parking position are available by the controller in advance of when the driver operates the vehicle in accordance with the guidance system.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Kuriya, Okamoto and Takagi), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1, and claims 2-6 and 8-15 in depending from claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/733,497
Response dated February 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2006

Docket No. 5000-5135

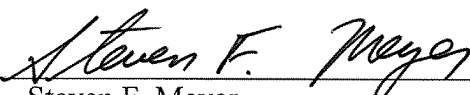
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 5000-5135). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 28, 2007

By: 
Steven F. Meyer
Registration No. 35,613

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile